

VISTA Application

March 8, 2022

IDAHO VISTA COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CORPS

Serve Idaho, The Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism, is looking for organizations interested in being a project site. We are accepting site proposals from eligible organizations who are innovative, high-performing, and outcome-driven and share the **VISTA mission of providing long term solutions to poverty by reducing and eliminating barriers to education and increasing economic opportunity for all.**

AMERICORPS VISTA QUALIFICATIONS

Public Organizations

State and local government
organizations

Faith Based Organizations

Indian Tribes

Nonprofit Organizations

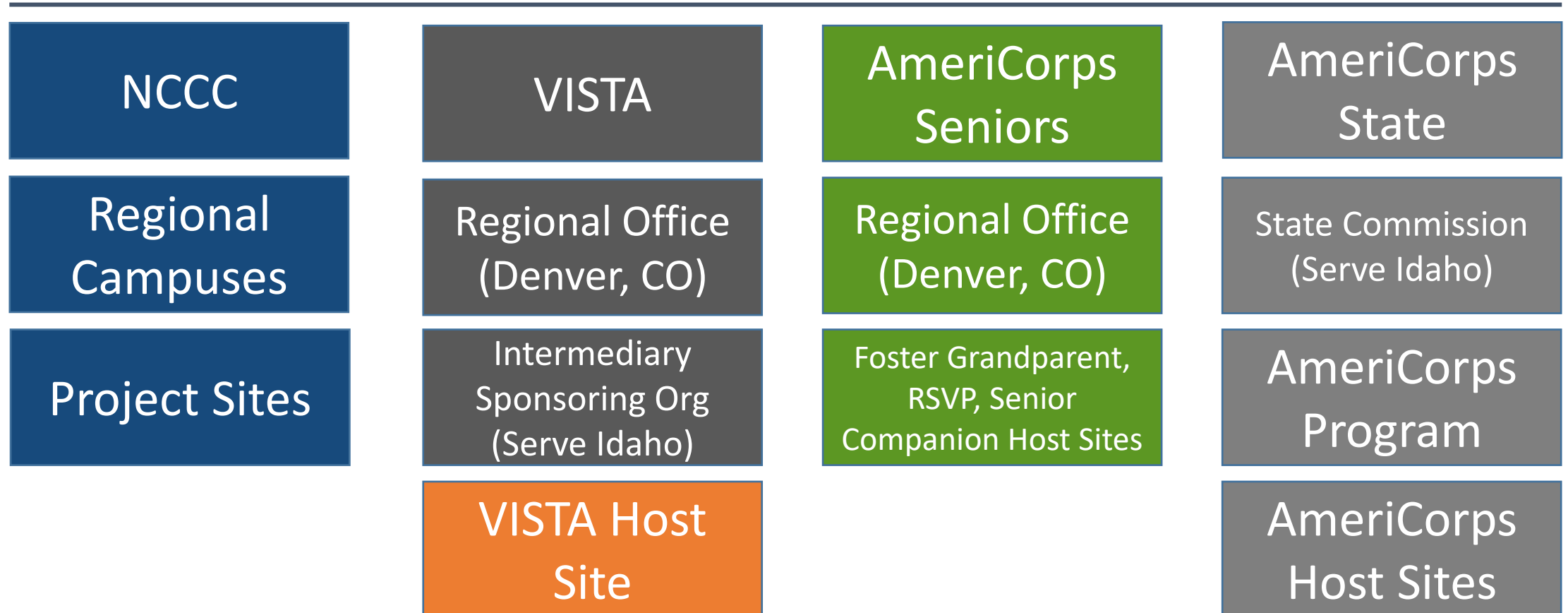
Education Organizations
including colleges and
universities

Focus on anti-poverty community development

Agencies must be able to recruit and supervise the VISTA member and
provide necessary administrative support

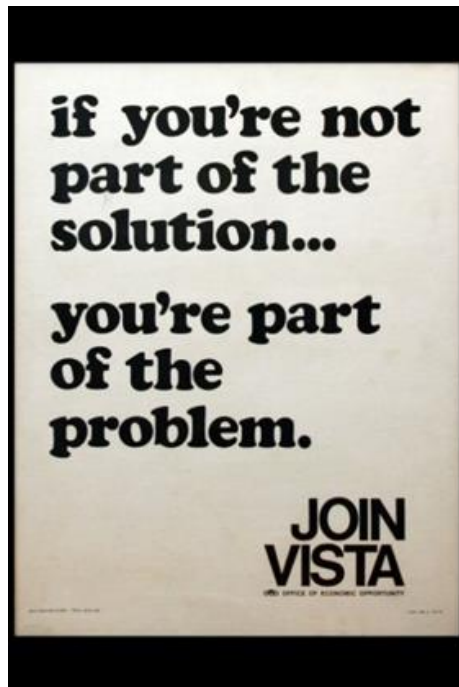
AMERICORPS HIERARCHY

AmeriCorps Agency



VISTA HISTORY & MISSION

To start, strengthen, or expand programs, systems or services that help people move out of poverty.



- Founded in 1965 as part of Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty. Based on the Peace Corps.
- Became part of AmeriCorps in 1993.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity Building + Indirect Service

Tasks & activities to expand and strengthen the scale, reach, efficiency, or effectiveness of programs or organizations.

Tasks & activities that transfer knowledge, products and relationships to the staff and volunteers of the host site

Fundraising

Grant
Writing

Research

Volunteer
Recruitment

VISTA CORE PRINCIPLES

Anti-Poverty Focus:

Community Empowerment:

- Awareness
- Engagement
- Involvement
- Impact

Sustainable Solutions:

- Year 1: Development
- Year 2: Capacity building
- Year 3: Sustainability

Capacity Building:

- Build resources
- Expand Resources
- Scale Resources
- Create short-term and long-term impact

AMERICORPS VISTA MEMBERS

- Members serve 365 full time
- Members are:
 - Individuals 18 or older
 - Gain work experience
 - Give back to their community

Member Benefits

Leave time: 10
days medical, 10
days personal

Education award
or cash stipend

Child care

A Subsistence
Allowance

Training

Professional
Experience

Non-
Competitive
Eligibility

Relocation
Benefits

Health Care
Allowance

AMERICORPS VISTA MEMBERS

Members cannot:

- Perform direct service
- Physical labor
- Displace staff positions or duties

Members are not:

- Employees of your organization
- Employees of Serve Idaho
- Employees of the federal government

Members are prohibited from:

- Influencing legislation (lobbying)
- Engaging in partisan political activities
- Engaging in religious instruction
- Conducting voter registration

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VISTA HOST SITE REQUIREMENTS

- Sign MOU with Serve Idaho
- Ensure members are following rules and regulations of the program
- Complete monthly progress reports and submit to Serve Idaho
- Provide day to day supervision of VISTA member
- Provide a site supervisor
- Develop a volunteer assignment description (VAD)
- Develop a member listing

VISTA HOST SITE REQUIREMENTS

- Recruit AmeriCorps VISTA members
- Provide funding for:
 - Member travel as applicable
 - \$500 emergency fund
 - Housing support if available
- Track member time and attendance
- Attend VISTA supervisor trainings
- Provide Onsite Orientation
- Provide workspace for members including telephone, computer, and office space

AMERICORPS VISTA GRANT/FEES

2021 to 2022 Grant

- Three member slots
- Grant cycle goes through August
- No cost-share requirement
- Identify members by July 15th
- AmeriCorps VISTA member orientation is August 15th

2022 to 2023 Grant

- Number of slots?
- Serve Idaho will write for our recompetete grant that will start in September
- Members onboarded after August will pay a cost-share fee

VISTA APPLICATION

Organization Legal Name:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Employer Identification Number:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Address:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Phone:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Organization Mission:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Program Contact Name & Email:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Authorized representative Name and Title:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

*** A person authorized to enter into and sign contracts for the organization.*

Geographic areas (counties) affected by project:

Click or tap here to enter text.

VISTA APPLICATION

How many VISTA members are you requesting?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Economic Opportunity Focus Area Objectives (select all that apply):

☐ Financial literacy (Improve financial knowledge for individuals)

☐ Employment (Increase number of individuals that are able to secure employment)

☐ Housing (Increase number of individuals transitioned to safe, healthy, affordable housing and/or increase the number of safe, healthy, affordable housing units available)

☐ Other: Click or tap here to enter text. _____

Is your organization a college, university, nonprofit, school or state/local government agency?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Have you identified a staff member to serve as the VISTA's site supervisor? Yes ☐ No ☐

Is the site supervisor able to dedicate at least 20% of their time to support VISTA? Yes ☐ No ☐

Former AmeriCorps grantee or placement site? Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes, what years have AmeriCorps members served with your organization? Click or tap here to enter text.

VISTA APPLICATION

Describe your organization (mission, vision, etc.):

Click or tap here to enter text.

Proposal Narratives

The Narratives section of the Proposal is your opportunity to demonstrate that your project would be an appropriate use of VISTA resources. The Narratives section includes the following three items: Need, Strengthening Communities, and Organizational Capacity.

Be sure to:

- Include activities for the first year.
- If renewing, include activities for second and/or third years.
- **Keep the answers to the Narratives section between 750–1,000 characters in each section.**

VISTA APPLICATION - NEED

Narrative – Section 1

In this section, describe the unmet poverty-related community need(s) you propose to address using AmeriCorps VISTA resources. Clearly describe the poverty-related need and the local beneficiary community, as well as how the planned program strategy (i.e., intervention) will lead to the final planned outcomes for the beneficiary community.

- Unmet poverty-related community need(s)
 - Utilize current data and reports
- Beneficiary community/communities
- Planned program strategy (intervention)
- Planned outcomes

Ensure your narrative includes all the bullet points included in this section

VISTA APPLICATION – STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

Narrative – Section 2

In this section, describe how your VISTA project aims to complement or expand current efforts in the community to address the need(s) described. Your response should encompass the following:

- Describe how the project will build long-term sustainability
- How the VISTA member would be used
- Discuss how this approach will change over time
- Indicate the involvement of beneficiaries

VISTA APPLICATION – ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY

Narrative – Section 3

Detail your organization's capacity to manage a federal national service program, including information that addresses the following issues:

- Organization's capacity to manage a federal national service program
- Experience operating anti-poverty programming
- Current or past AmeriCorps sponsor
- Recruit and supervise member(s)
- Organizational support – staff, volunteers, beneficiaries, resources
- Meaningful Service Experience
- Integrate VISTA Member

VISTA APPLICATION – DATA COLLECTION PLAN & PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Narrative – Section 4

VISTA Programs are required to report demographic information, capacity building outputs and outcomes, and other relevant resource development data resulting from their VISTA programming. Describe how you plan to collect program data and report on your Performance Measures:

Economic Opportunity

| Strategic Plan Objective | Selection Rules | | Interventions |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Outputs | Outcomes (if applicable)* | |
| Financial Literacy | O1A: Number of individuals served | O9: Number of individuals with improved financial knowledge O19A Dollar value of tax returns generated | Financial Literacy Education Financial Fraud Prevention Tax Preparation |
| Housing | O1A: Number of individuals served | O11: Number of individuals transitioned into safe, healthy, affordable housing | Housing Unit Development Housing Unit Repair Housing Placement/Assistance |
| | O4: Number of housing units developed or repaired | O20: Number of safe, healthy, affordable housing units made available | Housing Unit Development Housing Unit Repair |
| Employment | O1A: Number of individuals served | O10: Number of individuals who secure employment O21: Number of individuals with improved job readiness | Job Training Job Placement GED Education Other Adult Education |

VISTA APPLICATION TIMELINE

March 18 by 4 pm (MST): Deadline for applicants to submit application to Serve Idaho (renee.bade@labor.idaho.gov)

March 21 - 25: VISTA Application Staff Review

March 28: Clarification Letters Sent to Applicants

April 1: Clarification Due

April 4: Notification of Site Selection, MOU Provided to Host Sites

VISTA TIMELINE – AFTER SELECTION

April 4: Provide Timeline for Next Steps

- Provide VISTA Site Supervisor Handbook
- training on VAD Development
- training on Service Opportunity Listing
- training on OSOT Development

April 12: Signed MOU due to Serve Idaho

April 15: Volunteer Assignment Description (VAD) Due & Service Opportunity Listing Due to Serve Idaho

April 22: All Service Opportunity Listings Posted in MyAmeriCorps.gov

VISTA TIMELINE – AFTER SELECTION

May 20: Onsite Orientation & Training (OSOT) Due to Serve Idaho

May 16 – May 27: Conduct VISTA Candidate Interviews (Serve Idaho round 1; site round 2)

May 27: Provide VISTA Candidate Selection to Serve Idaho.

Complete AmeriCorps VISTA Site Interview Feedback Form and Submit to Serve Idaho

June 5: All candidate selections finalized with AmeriCorps Regional Office

July 5: VISTA Member Orientation – VISTA's Start!

QUESTIONS

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